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recounting Prussia's regeneration he does not overlook, as so many historians of Prussia do, the continuance for years after 1815 of the transforming impulses which Stein set in motion, though few will agree with the assertion that after this date "the view that the state was an end in itself . . . lost all but a few hidebound supporters" (p. 92). The thesis that the authoritative and collective tendencies in Prussia are an organic development dominates the discussion and in his eagerness to develop this through the nineteenth century Schevill occasionally overlooks important points, such as the unifying effects of the enthusiasms of the Frankfort Parliament and the constitutional results of Bismarck's victory over the Prussian Liberals in 1863, so crucial for the development of the Bismarckian state.

The book was planned before the war, nevertheless the conflict determines the tone and content of the discussion of Bismarck and after. Schevill defends vigorously and ably the German constitution as a "healthy interaction" of authority and democracy, and finds that the authoritative principle has taken a more genuinely democratic course than English and American liberalism. A statement of Lord Northcliffe's that the Germans are "second-rate imitators" introduces eight pages on German contributions to science, municipal government, etc. The author's arguments, like Delbrück's, in defense of the German dualistic system give the impression of one tilting against windmills. The British middle-class Liberalism, which Schevill attacks (p. 166 ff.), has long since ceased to exist in theory or practice save as a sort of bogey-man for critics. Is the British social legislation, from the factory laws of the 'forties down to Lloyd George's sick-insurance bill, not evidence of a growing fusion of liberalism with democracy, that freedom with equality, which Schevill finds so antipodal?

Appendixes on the Polish question and Alsace-Lorraine give a fair and sympathetic statement of the German position on these matters. Still another appendix (there are eight in all) absolves Bismarck from the charge of falsifying the Ems Despatch. Over against the fine-spun arguments of Schevill and others on this point one would like to set the classic remark of the hard-headed Moltke, when Bismarck read him the "concentrated" form of Abeken's message: "So hat das einen anderen Klang. Vorher klang es wie eine Chamade [signal for negotiations], jetzt wie eine Fanfare [flourish in answer to a challenge]." (*Gedanken und Erinnerungen*, II, 91.)

Frederick the Great: the Memoirs of his Reader, Henri de Catt (1758-1760). Translated by F. S. FLINT, with an Introduction by Lord ROSEBERY. In two volumes. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1917. Pp. xl, 312; 344. \$7.50.)

AFTER Frederick the Great had separated from Voltaire through incompatibility of temper, and after he had thrown De Prades into a

fortress on a charge of espionage, it was a Genevan Swiss, Henri de Catt, whom he selected as his literary crony. Officially Catt was the king's "reader"; actually he was his listener; for Frederick liked to follow the advice which he often gave to others that the best way to clarify one's own thoughts is to express them to someone else. Catt joined the king in camp in March, 1758, and for more than a score of years thereafter it was his duty, after dinner, to listen reverentially to his patron declaiming French tragedies, to correct and criticize his mediocre verse, to place adroitly sympathy or compliment, and to tell the king what his officers were saying about him. Great men, and even men not great, often have need of such retainers. Johnson had Boswell, Goethe had Eckermann, Byron had Moore, and so forth. Catt was a devoted admirer, but his incense was not of that gross kind, burned by others, which obscures the idol and defiles the worshippers.

During the bitter years 1758-1760, in which Frederick suffered at Olmütz, Hochkirchen, Zorndorf, and Kunersdorf, and in which he was bereft of his beloved mother, brother, and sister, Catt kept a very brief Diary of all conversations and journeys with the king. Many years later he artistically amplified the Diary into *Memoirs*. Neither the Diary nor the *Memoirs* were used by Carlyle, nor by any German historians to any extent until they were published by Koser in 1884. Mr. Flint's translation of the *Memoirs*, preserving something of the savor of the original French, is excellent. Either he, or Lord Rosebery in the charming estimate of Frederick and his Boswell, might well have warned the reader of the difference between the Diary and the *Memoirs*. The former, not here translated, consists of disconnected jottings and is wholly without literary form. It is of much value, however, to the meticulous biographer of Frederick, because of its unvarnished accuracy. The *Memoirs*, on the other hand, put together in pleasing narrative form, have doubtless much greater interest for the general reader, but are not quite so trustworthy. They betray a naïve tendency on Catt's part to magnify his own importance. But the prominence which he assigns to himself is not always in harmony with his own statements in the Diary. When Frederick hears of the death of his brother, the Prince of Prussia, it is to Catt, according to the *Memoirs* (I. 187 ff.), that he at once pours out his grief; according to the Diary he was not called to see the king until four days after the sad news had come. In the *Memoirs*, Catt has also an eye for dramatic effect. For, according to the Diary, it was on August 14, 1758, that Frederick busied himself writing an improvement on Rousseau's Ode to Fortune; in the *Memoirs* (I. 286) Catt places this episode ten days later, on the 24th, so that it dramatically takes place on the eve of the battle of Zorndorf, and Catt is saying, "Yes, Sire, I doubt whether the generals whom you have to combat ever write verses on the eve of a battle."

Admitting, however, that there is a mixture of *Dichtung und Wahrheit* in the *Memoirs*, they nevertheless give a generally veracious, favor-

able, and intensely human picture of a really great man. They recount his foibles, jokes, hemorrhoids, poems, and persiflage. Often the weary head of the state would exclaim to Catt, "What a dog's life I have to lead!". He even had thoughts of resigning the crown to his brother, in order that he might retire to the literary delights of Sans Souci. Catt gives many amusing anecdotes illustrating Frederick's fondness for practical jokes on other people; but there are also plenty of stories evidencing the king's essential generosity and genuine solicitude for the welfare of others. Frederick frequently adverted to his miserable youth and his hard study for the tasks of life, but he seems to have had a more kindly appreciation of his father's severe character than one would gather from the pages of Carlyle or Macaulay.

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Modern Russian History: being an Authoritative and Detailed History of Russia from the Age of Catherine the Great to the Present. By ALEXANDER KORNILOV, Professor at the Polytechnicum of Peter the Great in Petrograd. In two volumes. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1917. Pp. 310, 370. \$5.00.)

It is really a pity. Here is an excellent book on a subject about which there is little good literature in English, and it is made almost unreadable for us by the incompetence of the translator. He is evidently a foreigner with a large theoretical knowledge of English, but he has no real sense of a clear idiomatic use of the language. The order of his clauses is apt to be clumsy, there are countless inversions, articles are inserted where they do not belong, and omitted where they do (in Russian there are no articles), there are many mistakes in the use of prepositions, and words of all kinds are used with not quite their right meaning and sometimes with totally wrong ones and sometimes with no warrant for their existence. The reader is thus kept in a continual state of irritation while he is trying to find out what a sentence means or should mean, or is jarred by some extraordinary expression. To quote a few examples, we find such terms as "ideational", "hydraulicians", "draining wars", "civilism", "cadet corpuses", "motivated", "the anachronic despoty". Paper money is called "assignments", and we are told about their "course". Instead of he "disapproved of", we have he "regarded negatively". The Academicians, such as Storch, are dubbed "academic Storch", etc.

The following if not perhaps fair are characteristic passages:

Not satisfied with the custom repressions Paul ordered arrested all English goods in the stores (I. 61).

To the next period we must assign the following four decades of the nineteenth century, when the results of the abolition of serfdom had developed the further process of the substitution by a constitutional of the autocratic state (I. 65).